



Sewerage 'complete' next week

By Holly Edwards
Municipal Editor

Due to a series of delays, substantial completion of the Yaupon Beach sewage treatment plant will not be announced today (Wednesday) as originally expected, but will be announced about a week late, engineering consultant Finley Boney said.

Completion of the treatment plant, collection system and electrical system is now expected to be announced during a contractors' meeting scheduled for Wednesday, September 29, at 4 p.m. in Town Hall.

Once the state Division of Environmental Management is notified of the completion, Boney said, the sewer system and treatment plant will be activated within 48 hours, and town residents will be able to tap onto the system on October 1.

Residents will have 90 days from October 1 to have their sewer access lines installed and connected to the system. Although citizens can install their own access lines and sewer taps, wastewater supervisor David Kelly must inspect and approve all work before allowing citizens to disconnect from their septic systems.

Boney said the three major causes of the scheduling setbacks were weather delays, equipment delays and subcontractor problems. For example, he said the subcontractor hired to install equipment at the treatment plant abruptly walked off the job two months ago after only two days of work.

When contracts were signed on October 12, 1992, all of the contractors estimated they would be completed with their work by mid- to late-August. Since then, a number of time extensions have been granted to allow for what Boney terms "excusable

See Sewer, page 6



Hayes Baxley, Jo Betts Baxley and Tim Pinion were among hundreds of Brunswick County volunteers who participated in Beach Sweep '93 on Saturday. Pinion, naturalist with the Bald Head Island Conservancy, coordinated beach clean-up efforts on the island.

Photo by Jim Harper

Smoking ban hearing draws mixed reviews

By Terry Pope
County Editor

Brad Kerr predicts a close vote October 11 when his Brunswick County Board of Health decides whether to impose countywide no-smoking rules on area businesses.

He also chairs the committee that wrote the rules which came under fire from the public Tuesday.

Twenty people spoke at a hearing -- 12 opposed to the smoking rules and eight in favor.

The 11 board members face an intense lobbying effort from both sides of the hot issue.

"It looks almost evenly divided
See Smoking ban, page 10

'It takes away the right of the business owners to operate their business based on the demand of their customers. It's an economic hazard to our area.'

Billy Nichols

Land use plan update relaxes sewer wording

By Holly Edwards
Municipal Editor

Long Beach's proposed land use plan update moved one step closer to adoption Tuesday night when town council officially accepted the proposal and voted to forward it to the state Division of Coastal Management for review and comment.

The state is expected to return the plan within 45 days along with a number of comments, and the town will then be required to respond to each comment before the plan is returned to the state for final approval. A public hearing will be scheduled before the plan is put into effect.

Council member Danny Leonard, who also served on the land use plan advisory committee, said the policies in the plan are a compromise between protecting the environment and maintaining the town's growth pattern. Committee members repeatedly had to weigh environmental concerns with the need to promote controlled growth. But in the end, he said, both sides were equally compromised.

Council member Bill Easley agreed.

"I think it's a very well-balanced plan," he said. "Something that's very important to consider is we all

have to make it so growth is available. It can get too much one way than the other, and it can turn into a situation where no one else is welcome on the island."

The proposal states that given
See Land use plan, page 10

'Valid' government island goal

By Jim Harper
Staff Writer

The committee studying the manner of governance of Bald Head Island told the village council Saturday that it will recommend amending the charter "to provide a representative, constitutionally valid governing body."

Presently the council is appointed by the board of directors of the island property-owner association and by the island's primary developer.

Dissatisfaction among islanders with this form of representation led to appointment of the committee, which is charged with periodically reporting

'... the method by which the council is appointed stands a high probability of conflicting with the federal and state constitutions and would probably fail if challenged in court.'

Committee report

to the council and with producing a recommendation in January.

The initial report Saturday, though, indicates the group has found funda-

mental flaws in the charter which require remediation.

The committee includes three Bald Head Island residents and three resi-

dents of Raleigh, all of whom own property on the island.

The report presented by chairman Bob Mauney said the forthcoming proposal for charter amendment "recognizes that two problems exist with the charter as it now stands:

"1. That the island has now evolved to the point where the representative aspects of the charter need to be perfected; and

"2. That the method by which the council is appointed stands a high probability of conflicting with the federal and state constitutions and would probably fail if challenged in court."

The village was chartered by the
See Goal, page 7

TB tests show nine as possible

By Marybeth Bianchi
Feature Editor

Of the nearly 700 people tested for tuberculosis last week at South Brunswick High School, nine turned up with positive results.

That doesn't mean those nine have TB. Brunswick County public health nursing supervisor Victoria Smith said Tuesday. What it does mean is they have come in contact with the TB bacteria and must undergo further testing. Specifically, each must have a chest X-ray to determine if he or she

See Tests, page 6

Summertime, the living was easy

Area businesses report increase over last year

By Marybeth Bianchi
Feature Editor

From all indications, the Southport-Oak Island area no longer is North Carolina's "best-kept secret".

The 1993 summer season brought with it a growing number of visitors and growing revenue for area businesses.

"We have had a very good season," said Karen Hope, director of the Southport-Oak Island Chamber of Commerce. Reports from some retailers and realtors indicate double-digit increases in business over last year, she said.

Last year, Brunswick County was ranked 11th in the state for tourism

revenue generated and Hope said. "This year I have a feeling we'll do as good or even better."

Retail sales figures for the summer months aren't available yet, but Dr. William Hall of the Center for Business and Economics Services at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington said for the 12-month period ending in May, retail sales were up 9.3 percent over the previous year.

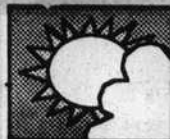
"That's a pretty healthy increase," he said, and much better than neighboring New Hanover County and the state, which saw increases of 4.1 and 7.7 percent respectively.

If May's figure of \$40.7 million in retail sales is an indication of what the summer months brought, it would come as no surprise that area cash registers were ringing up profits.

Hope said promotions in the Northeast are drawing an increasing
See Summer, page 6



OUTSIDE



Forecast

The extended forecast calls for partly cloudy skies Thursday and Friday with a high of 90 and lows in the 70s. Cooler weather is expected Saturday, with a daytime high in the low 80s and nighttime lows in the 60s.

Tide table

HIGH	LOW
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23	
2:30 a.m.	8:34 a.m.
3:16 p.m.	9:25 p.m.
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24	
3:33 a.m.	9:38 a.m.
4:16 p.m.	10:24 p.m.
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25	
4:33 a.m.	10:39 a.m.
5:11 p.m.	11:16 p.m.
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26	
5:28 a.m.	11:33 a.m.
6:02 p.m.	12:03 p.m.
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27	
6:17 a.m.	12:07 a.m.
6:46 p.m.	12:23 p.m.
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28	
7:02 a.m.	12:49 a.m.
7:29 p.m.	1:07 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29	
7:42 a.m.	1:29 a.m.
8:06 p.m.	1:49 p.m.

The following adjustments should be made: Bald Head Island, high -10, low -7; Curlew Beach, high -5, low -1; Southport, high +7, low +15; Yaupon Beach, high -32, low -45; Lockwood Folly Inlet, high -22, low -8.